

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL ADANA

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SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENT TO PRESS
ON ARMS EMBARGO

1. SUMMARY: JUNE 26 PRESS GIVES PROMINENT PLAY TO
COMMENTS BY PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND FOREIGN MINISTER
CAGLAYANGIL ON ARMS EMBARGO. REFERRING TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S ATLANTA SPEECH, CAGLAYANGIL COMMENTED THAT IT
IS PLEASING THAT SECRETARY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO CONFIRM
VIEWS EXPRESSED BY TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS. THRUST OF DEMIREL'S COMMENTS WAS
THAT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO IS PUNISHING A LOYAL PARTNER OF
THIRTY YEARS' STANDING. END SUMMARY

2. CAGLAYANGIL, IN RESPONDING TO TURKISH NEWS AGENCY
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CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION, REFERRED TO POINTS MADE BY

SECRETARY THAT U.S. AND ALLIES HAVE OBLIGATION TO A COMMON INTEREST AND NOTED THAT FOR THE U.S. TO TERMINATE MILITARY ASSISTANCE OR EVEN SALES TO AN ALLY IS BASICALLY SELF-DEFEATING. IT IS OBVIOUS FROM HIS POINTS, CAGLAYANGIL SAID, THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER FIRST MADE A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SINCE TURKEY DOES NOT BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR UPSETTING THE MAINTENANCE OF THE OBLIGATION TO THE COMMON INTEREST, THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH ALLIES ARE NOT VALID FOR TURKEY. ACCORDING TO CAGLAYANGIL, SECRETARY'S ANALYSIS WAS THAT IT IS THE U.S. THAT IS WEAKENING THE POLITICAL TIES AND ENDANGERING THE COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. FOR THIS REASON, PRESIDENT FORD HAS STRONGLY OPPOSED CONGRESSIONAL SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND IS NOW WORKING

HARD WITH CONGRESS TO HAVE AID RESTORED. PRESS QUOTES CAGLAYANGIL AS SAYING, "THESE ARE BASIC VIEWS WHICH TURKEY HAS BEEN PUTTING FORWARD ALL ALONG ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. IT IS PLEASING THAT ON THIS OCCASION THESE VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED ONCE AGAIN BY DR. KISSINGER."

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH VISITING GROUP OF AMERICAN SMALL-TOWN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS, DEMIREL SAID THAT, "THE U.S. WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FIND SUCH A FRIEND AGAIN IF SHE ATTEMPTS TO PUNISH TURKEY." HE MENTIONED AMICABLE BILATERAL RELATIONS OF PAST THIRTY YEARS WHICH HAD ALSO EXTENDED TO JOINT PARTICIPATION IN NATO. DEMIREL SPOKE OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE WILLING TO SOLVE THEM. "IF THE U.S. ENTERS THE ARENA AND MAKES A SOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE, WHO WILL BENEFIT?", HE ASKED. AN EMBARGO MEANS HOSTILITY, HE COMMENTED, NOTING THAT TURKEY HAS NOT EVEN BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN F-4 AIRCRAFT FOR WHICH IT HAS PAID.

4. DEMIREL FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT TWELVE HUNDRED TURKISH YOUNG MEN DIED IN KOREA FOR A COMMON CAUSE, AND THE AMERICAN CONGRESS PRESENTED THEM WITH MEDALS FOR THEIR HEROISM. BUT THIRTY YEARS LATER THE U.S. SAYS, 'I WON'T SELL YOU ARMS. I WON'T GIVE YOU ARMS. I WON'T DELIVER THE ARMS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE PAID.' BUT SHE GIVES ARMS TO YUGOSLAVIA. HOW SHALL WE EXPLAIN THIS?" WHEN ASKED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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FORECAST WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE ARMS EMBARGO IS NOT LIFTED, DEMIREL REPORTEDLY REPLIED, "THE DISCONTINUANCE OF DELIVERY MEANS THAT OUR DEFENSE IS WEAKENED. HOW CAN A WEAKENED TURKEY FULFILL HER COMMITMENTS IN NATO? IN FACT, THIS DECISION IS NOT ONLY WEAKENING TURKEY, BUT NATO AS WELL. LOYALTY CANNOT BE PUNISHED. TURKEY HAS BEEN THE USA'S HONORABLE, CORRECT AND LOYAL FRIEND." BERGUS

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